

# RE: May 18- Why Vote No

Butler, Susan F <sbutler@tufts.edu>

Fri 5/15/2015 6:15 AM

City Clerk Agenda

To: Ellen Mass <emass73@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>;

Cc: Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>; keepcambridgelivable@gmail.com <keepcambridgelivable@gmail.com>; fresh-pond-residents-alliance@googlegroups.com <fresh-pond-residents-alliance@googlegroups.com>;

Thank you Ellen for this eloquent description of a very serious problem I have spoken to City Council about for many years.

The biological contamination, e. coli, in that water is a very serious concern and completely unacceptable.

Certainly it is not up to western civilized standards of civil engineering.

It is wildly foolish that anyone would consider further building on a flood plain that is only sometimes keeping up with the ecological demands on it. Further building will worsen this serious problem.

We must preserve the watershed capacities we have,

Sincerely,

Sue Butler

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**From:** Ellen Mass [emass73@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2015 7:36 AM

**To:** councilors of Cambridge, city

**Cc:** Lopez, Donna; keepcambridgelivable@gmail.com; fresh-pond-residents-alliance@googlegroups.com

**Subject:** May 18- Why Vote No

Cambridge City Councilors:

Spot zoning at Alewife has given the city a black mark with the federal government (US-EPA) , endangering the lives and property of surrounding watershed residents. According to many studies Little River and Alewife Brook contain some of the highest levels of contamination in the 76 sq. miles of watershed and new buildings continue to be tied into the drainage system without proper environmental oversight. Many mistakes are made with spot zoning as cumulative determinations on the federal 100 year floodplain have not been made for sea rise levels and ground water elevations from this low-lying floodplain next to the sea - as mentioned in the Vulnerability Assessment study

of the city last month.

By continuing to spot zone without a Cambridge Master Plan that most prosperous cities and towns in the USA have in place, we are unwittingly deteriorating our population's standard of living throughout this famed academic and high tech city, both in east and west Cambridge.

Ellen Mass  
President  
Friends of Alewife Reservation